

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 AGR-20 DRC-01 /177 W

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R 281130Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9234

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECON EGEN EG

SUBJ: INTERIM DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

CURRENT STATUS

1. IN THE FLURRY OF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE
DESIGNATION OF HEGAZY AS PRIME MINISTER AND THE
INSTALLATION OF A NEW CABINET, THE LEVEL OF
PRESS ATTENTION BEING PAID TO THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE INTERIM PLAN HAS DROPPED AWAY SHARPLY.
SADAT DID ANNOUNCE, HOWEVER, THAT THE PEOPLE'S
ASSEMBLY WOULD BE ASKED TO LOOK AT THE PLAN
AFTER IT RECONVENES AT THE END OF RAMADHAN,
SO IT WILL STILL BE AWHILE BEFORE THE FINAL
FIGURES ARE RELEASED.

2. IN THE WEEK OR SO PRECEDING HEGAZY'S
PROMOTION, HE CHAIRED A NUMBER OF CABINET
SESSIONS AT WHICH THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECT OF
DISCUSSION WAS THE PLAN AND ITS VARIOUS COMPONENTS.
PRESS COVERAGE OF THE MEETINGS WAS FAIRLY EXTENSIVE
BUT MOSTLY IN TERMS OF RHETORIC AS TO WHAT IT
IS INTENDED AND EXPECTED TO ACCOMPLISH. VERY
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LITTLE SPECIFIC DATA HAS BEEN RELEASED; WHAT

HAS COME OUT IS NOT PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE.

3. THE EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN SUCCESSFUL IN PLANNING IN THE PAST, RELYING HEAVILY ON STATISTICS THAT ARE RELATIVELY MEANINGLESS IN ORDER TO SET NEW STATISTICAL OBJECTIVES THAT HAVE EVEN LESS VALUE. THUS PLANNING MINISTER ABDALLAH HAS ANNOUNCED THAT GNP IN 1975 WILL REACH LE 7.9 BILLION, AN 11 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE LE 7.1 OF 1974, A FIGURE THAT IS ITSELF AN ESTIMATE, SINCE THE DATA WAS DEVELOPED IN EARLY AUGUST. OTHER FACETS OF THE PLAN THAT HAVE BEEN REVEALED CALL FOR THE CREATION OF 350,000 NEW JOBS, INVESTMENTS TOTALLING \$1.180 BILLION (\$1 BILLION FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR, \$100 MILLION FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND 80 MILLION FOR JOINT VENTURES), THE COMPLETION OF EXISTING PROJECTS AND THE FULL UTILIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL CAPACITIES.

4. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PLAN WAS PREPARED IN HASTE AND WILL NOT REALLY BE AN EFFECTIVE GUIDE FOR EGYPT'S DEVELOPMENT DURING 1975. (THERE HAS EVIDENTLY BEEN A TACID ABANDONMENT OF THE 1974 PORTION OF THE 18 MONTH PLAN, SINCE ABDALLAH HAS SAID THAT SEPARATE DATA HAS BEEN DEVELOPED FOR BOTH PERIODS.) BY THE TIME THE WCERCISE IS OVER, HOWEVER, THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT TIME, AND A MUCH CLEARER IDEA OF WHERE THEY ARE TRYING TO GO ON THE PART OF THE GOE'S LEADERS, TO PERMIT THE PROMISED FIVE-YEAR 1976-80 PLAN TO BE PROPERLY DEVELOPED.

EILTS

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